

French planes help airlift Moroccans to Zaire

Morocco has been given the use of 10 French Air Force cargo aircraft to provide an airlift for the 1,500 Moroccan troops now actively aiding the Zaire Army to fight rebel troops and Katangan insurgents advancing in the province of Shaba. Both Morocco and Zaire appealed to France for help with the military airlift.

King Hassan calls in five ambassadors

From Paul Martin Paris, April 10
France has indirectly joined Morocco's military intervention on the side of the Zaire Government by sending 10 transport aircraft to help ferry Moroccan troops. An announcement by the Elysee Palace said the French military aid followed an urgent plea from both Morocco and Zaire to stem the rebel advances.

The French decision is in line with expressions of concern by President Giscard d'Estaing at the latest turn of events in central Africa. The Zaire situation was a main topic in President Giscard's discussions with Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, and President Sadat, of Egypt, both of whom visited Paris last week.

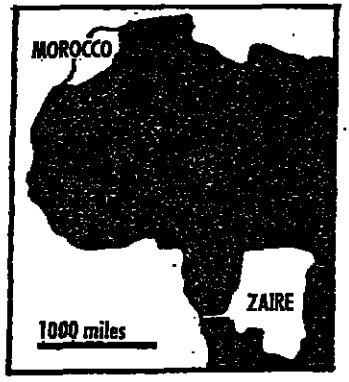
The French Air Force cargo aircraft—nine Transall C160 and a DC8—were sent to Rabat on Saturday—24 hours before the presidential announcement in Paris. It confirms the Franco-Moroccan alliance to pursue pro-Western policies in Africa.

Although official sources maintained that "not one French soldier" would be involved in the venture, it was not clear whether the crews of the transports would be French or Moroccan. Nor was it clear if the aircraft would be carrying troops or just military equipment.

Soon after their arrival in Morocco, the French transports began the airlift between Rabat and Kinshasa. The Moroccan troops will be made up of veterans from the expeditionary force that acquitted itself so well in the Golan Heights in the 1973 Arab-Israeli war and special units from the Moroccan army. The Elysee statement pointed out that the Government of Zaire had been the "victim of a coup d'etat" and that the French President had made the means to transport the airlift with the speed required to face a deteriorating military situation.

Kinshasa, April 10.—About 1,500 Moroccan troops have arrived in the south-east province of Shaba to help the Zaire army forces repel the Katangan rebels. Western diplomatic sources in Kinshasa confirmed the arrival.

President Mobutu disclosed, meanwhile, that the incursion into Zaire had been helped by complicity "at the highest levels of the Zaire Army". One



Former Yemeni prime minister and wife die in London triple shooting

By Clive Borrell Crime Correspondent
A political assassin was being sought by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad last night after the former prime minister of North Yemen, his wife and one of his country's diplomats in London were shot and killed outside a Bayswater hotel.

The victims were al-Qadi Abdulla al-Hajri, aged 68, former prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic and deputy chief of its Supreme Court; his wife, Fatimah, aged 40; and Mr Abdallah Ali al-Hammami, aged 45, minister plenipotentiary at the republic's London embassy.

Mr Hammami had called on the judge and his wife, who were on a private visit to London, just before noon yesterday. After a half-hour talk in their private suite at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, they prepared to leave for an undisclosed destination in an embassy car.

The two men and Mr al-Hajri, who was wearing traditional dress, were unremarkable as they walked down Westbourne Street, an area popular with Arab visitors. Their waiting car was only five yards from the hotel.

Their assailant, described by the police as "Middle Eastern-looking" seems to have been waiting on the pavement opposite the hotel, at the junction of Westbourne Street and Sussex Gardens. He crossed the street by the hotel entrance only when the car was about to move, with Mr al-Hajri in the front passenger seat, his wife in the back and Mr al-Hammami driving.

The assailant opened the back nearside door and fired several times with a silenced automatic pistol. Despite the close range, at least one shot missed and shattered the windscreen. The occupants appear to have been taken completely unaware and took no action. The incident lasted less than 15 seconds.

The assassin then ran off down the side of the hotel in the direction of Hyde Park and the open-air exhibition of paintings along its railings. He was last seen turning towards Lancaster Gate Underground station.

Police described the gunman last night as being in his early twenties, of athletic build, and 5ft 8in to 5ft 10in in height. He was wearing dark jeans and a dark three-quarter-length, shapeless overcoat.

One of the first witnesses to be interviewed by police described seeing what he thought was a crumpled coat on the back seat of the car through the open door. It was the body of Mrs al-Hajri.

The visiting couple had not been given specific police protection, nor had they asked for any.

A senior detective said last night: "As yet we know of no motive for these killings, although it is likely that the shootings were motivated by politics." The police were convinced that the assassinations and the gunman's escape had been carefully planned.

When the identity of the three victims was discovered, Commander James Nevill, head of the anti-terrorist squad, was recalled from Easter leave to mobilise his team and enlist Special Branch help. Scotland Yard's diplomatic security squad was also asked to increase guard on all "sensitive" Middle Eastern embassies.

The gun used in the assassination was an automatic pistol.



Detectors examining the pavement beside the embassy car after yesterday's assassinations near Hyde Park, London.



al-Qadi Abdulla al-Hajri, a former prime minister.



Abdallah Ali al-Hammami, minister plenipotentiary.

Bomb kills boy near Belfast IRA ceremony

From Stewart Tandler Belfast
A boy, aged 10 was killed in Belfast yesterday when a bomb exploded as thousands of people gathered to watch the republican commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising. Another boy, aged 14, was seriously injured in the head and shortly afterwards supporters of the two wings of the republican movement clashed.

A few hours after the death of Kevin McMenamin, of New Barnsley Drive, in the Turf Lodge district, his uncle, Mr John Short, was found shot dead at White Rock near by and another relative, aged 33, was found with gunshot wounds in the leg. The two men had been on their way to the boy's home to tell other relatives of the death.

The bomb, which contained up to 2lb of explosive and shrapnel, exploded on a window sill near the entrance to the Provisional Sinn Fein and also used by the Republican Clubs, the political wing of the Official IRA, to millenary ceremony.

The Provisional march had passed, but the second march was about to begin near by. The explosion also injured two men. The Belfast brigade of the Official IRA denied responsibility, but the Republican Clubs blamed the Provisionals none the less.

When the Provisionals finished their ceremony their supporters, despite warnings from stewards, clashed with the vanguard of the second parade at the cemetery gate. Stones were thrown by youths and then three volleys of shots rang out. During the first ceremony Mr Joseph Stagg, brother of Frank Stagg, who died on hunger strike in Wakefield jail last year, announced what may prove to be a serious confrontation with the Irish Government over 20 IRA hunger strikers from Portlaoise jail in the republic.

Calling for support for a demonstration, to be held in O'Connell Street, Dublin, next Saturday, he said it had been planned for Portlaoise next Sunday, but the hunger strikers wanted a protest in a more prominent public place.

Detectors in Dublin yesterday were interrogating a Belfast man who was arrested after several fire bombs had exploded in Dublin on Saturday. Twenty devices were found and exploded, damaging six shops in the centre of the city and a letter box. The targets of the attack were mainly large department stores.

Photograph, page 2

Heathrow engineers offered inquiry as some flights resume

By Tim Jones Labour Reporter
The 1,250 maintenance engineers whose unofficial action has severely curtailed British Airways flights from Heathrow airport, London, were urged yesterday to return to normal shift-working so that an independent inquiry into their dispute can take place.

Mr Keith Harris, one of the engineers' leaders, said: "I think we would welcome an independent inquiry, not only into the present situation but into the management's industrial relations as a whole. I think it is the only way to get justice, but our acceptance of it will depend on the manner in which it is set up."

The peace initiative was worked out at a meeting between officers of the National Union of Civil Air Transport and Mr James Mortimer, chairman of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

It came as management and supervisory staff with the airline's 17 unions, carried out checks which enabled 80 services to operate to European destinations and elsewhere.

Aircraft bound for Valencia and Amsterdam were the first to leave, then there were flights to Zurich, Paris, Brussels, Vienna and Munich. The airline said it was operating about 40 per cent of its normal European service.

Leaders of the Heathrow engineers have described the management-union agreement as a "blackleg's charter" and Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers conveners at seven Glasgow factories yesterday hinted they might support their Heathrow colleagues.

At yesterday's air transport joint council meeting, which included representatives of management and unions, Mr Howard Phelps, personnel director of British Airways, said that if the engineers, who were dismissed on Thursday, reported for work tomorrow and gave an undertaking to work normal shifts and pursue their grievances by constitutional means they would be reinstated.

After the meeting Mr Mortimer said Acas would become involved in the dispute, which is over negotiating rights and shift pay, provided the request had the support of all concerned.

The proposal will be considered at a meeting of 250 shop stewards tomorrow which will coincide with the weekly meeting of the national executive of the AUEW. Although the union has instructed the men to return to work, it was not a party to the agreement which has allowed management engineers to carry out maintenance checks on aircraft.

That prompted Mr Phelps to send a telegram to the union's president, Mr Hugh Scanlon, saying: "I very much regret the AUEW public posture, which those in dispute will therefore regard as the official position of the AUEW".

Mr Tony Carter, AUEW convenor at Heathrow, said the agreement was "a crucifixion of trade union principles".

The airline has emphasized that most of its long-haul flights are not affected by the dispute and has given two telephone numbers for passengers to call for flight information. They are 01-759 4848 and 01-759 3131.

Aid for flights, page 2

Build-up of holiday road jams

Roads in the South yesterday were busier after the quietest Easter holiday Saturday for several years. But on Mersey-side, where it was wet and cold, traffic through the two river tunnels was quieter than on a normal Sunday and the resorts of Southport and New Brighton were almost deserted.

In London at one time 35,000 cars an hour were streaming out. Among the busiest roads were the A12 and A127 to Southend and the A23 to Brighton.

In spite of steady rain, the Automobile Association said, 3,000 vehicles an hour had been reported travelling on the M6 to the Lake District.

At Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, there was a three-mile traffic jam on the A64.

But roads in the West Country, the AA reported, were no busier than on a normal Sunday.

At Windsor Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips joined the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family for the Easter Day service at St George's Chapel.

In London bright sunshine and slightly higher temperatures drew the crowds to the traditional Easter Day parade in Battersea Park.

US seizes Soviet trawler

From Fred Emery Washington, April 10
President Carter last night ordered the seizure of a Soviet trawler caught allegedly overfishing inside the new American 200-mile limit off the Massachusetts coast. The Taras Shevchenko was boarded and ordered seized after it was reported to have taken about one and a half tons of herring above the licensed limit.

Mr Carter, speaking to reporters after Easter service in Calhoun, Georgia, said that the Soviet Embassy had been informed that "we had to draw the line somewhere. . . . We had to enforce the law."

Mr Carter was presumably referring to White House refusal of three coast guard requests to seize Soviet trawlers in the past few weeks.

A storm of protest had been directed at Washington by the American fishing industry and its congressional representatives especially since one of the offending trawlers boarded earlier had no licence to fish inside the limits.

The ship seized last night had such a licence but allegedly went over its authorized catch.

Peking warning on danger of trade unions meddling in politics

Mrs Thatcher says China aims at stability

From David Bonavia Soochow April 10
Mrs Margaret Thatcher arrived today in the east China beauty spot of Soochow to continue her week-long tour of the country after talks in Peking yesterday with Chairman Hua Kuo-feng.

She landed at a military airfield on board a British-built Trident belonging to the Chinese national airline, and was taken to visit a particularly prosperous commune before touring a silk embroidery design centre and visiting famous old gardens.

At a press conference in Peking last night Mrs Thatcher said that she thought of the reasons why the Chinese

had invited her was that they saw her as a likely government leader.

Chinese officials accompanying her have said there is intense interest in the British political scene and clearly hope that she will win the next election because of her tough stand against Soviet military expansion.

Asked about her impressions of the Chinese leadership with whom she had talked, she said: "They are aiming at a settled period, a stable period."

By accident or design, the Chinese press has published during Mrs Thatcher's visit a warning about the danger of allowing trade unions to interfere in national politics. The

Peking People's Daily has said that the so-called "Gang of Four" headed by Mr Chiang Ching, Chairman Mao's widow, had been the Chinese trade unions in their attempt for power last year.

It said: "The international and domestic trade union movements' repeated experience proves that unions organized for the working class can only promote their liberating function under the leadership of a Marxist-Leninist governing party, the vanguard of the working class."

As the Chinese do not consider pro-Soviet parties to be Marxist-Leninist, this could well be read as a criticism of union movement which they see as weakening Nato and the European Community through their influence in the Labour Party.

Chinese trade unions were organized in the 1950s on the Soviet model—state-controlled political organs and vehicles for worker benefits. They were virtually disbanded during the Cultural Revolution and surfaced again only in preparation for the party congress in 1973. Their role is believed to be still largely political.

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Continued on page 3, col 4

Pakistan riots claim 42 lives

demonstrators were shot dead in Pakistan today, bringing to 42 the number of people killed over the weekend in the continuing protests against alleged rigging of the general election won by Mr Bhutto's ruling People's Party. The number of injured and arrested is at several hundred by unofficial sources.

At least 100 were shot dead in Karachi, the death toll in Sindh's Lahore riots stands at 32. After eight hours of rioting sections of a city are desolated.

Head teachers' warning on lunchtime closures

Head teachers warned the Secretary of State for Education and Science that schools in some areas may have to close at lunchtime because of local authority reductions in the number of meals supervisors. Teachers are refusing to take their place.

Pupil discrimination

A report from the Equal Opportunities Commission is expected to conclude that there was discrimination in favour of boys in the interim arrangements for the selection of pupils at Tameside, Greater Manchester, made after the Conservative council changed Labour plans for comprehensive education.

Middle East initiative

King Hussein's Washington visit this week and President Assad's almost simultaneous trip to Moscow appear to form part of a new round of Middle East peace discussions between Arab leaders and the superpowers. The talks are being prepared without a publicity fanfare.

Cost of living: An MP's gross salary would be £9,450 if it had increased in line with the retail price index since January, 1972, a parliamentary written answer says.

Salisbury: Seven black civilians have been massacred by African guerrillas in a Rhodesian valley close to the border with Mozambique.

Rome: The Pope braves chill wind to give his Easter message from St Peter's balcony.

Mr Peres to lead Israel party

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv, April 10
The Israeli Labour Party this evening selected Mr Shimon Peres, aged 54, as its nominee for Prime Minister in place of Mr Yitzhak Rabin who signed last week after disclosures that he had violated foreign currency regulations by keeping dollars in a Washington bank.

Mr Peres, Defence Minister in Mr Rabin's outgoing Government, was proposed by Mr Yigal Allon, the deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, dropped out of the contest after friends convinced him over the weekend that it was his chance.

The advantage lay with Mr Peres because he lost the nomination to Mr Rabin in February by only 41 votes. At the same time Mr Zarmi, the secretary general of the party, obtained for Mr Allon an assurance that he would be given first choice of portfolio. Mr Allon said he would probably choose defence.

Mr Allon was absent during the vote and entered the hall during Mr Peres' acceptance speech. Three of his diehard supporters voted against Mr Peres and 18 abstained.

Mr Rabin attended the meeting and received a loud ovation as he took his seat in the front row. He did not acknowledge the cheers. Outside the hall, he was also cheered by men carrying posters, reading: "Rabin Come Back", and "Rabin We Need You".

Mr Peres said afterwards there would be no substantial change in policies in his administration.

The choice of Mr Peres holds perils and prospects for the Labour Party in its attempt to retain its 30-year hegemony in the parliamentary elections on May 17.

The immediate threat is the disaffection of left-wingers and doves who supported Mr Rabin's Government but regard Mr Peres as a hardliner, particularly over Israel's continued presence in the occupied West Bank.

The Mafpan Party, which has given its support to Labour since 1969, is now considering going it alone. The party's central committee is to meet tomorrow to make a final decision.

Mr Peres has assured the doves they will have a strong voice in his prospective Cabinet, with Mr Allon and Mr Abba Eban occupying key positions.

He also stated that he regarded himself as bound by the platform adopted at the Labour Party convention in February, which endorsed the return of some occupied territories to Jordan in a settlement and in effect barred further Israeli colonization in sections of the West Bank.

However, when Mr Moshe

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Derek Parker reviews three books on Sarah Bayard. Obituary, page 8. Mr Abdallah al-Hajri; Dr Eric Lyburn.

Leader page, 7. Letters: On transition in Rhodesia to majority rule, from Lord Alport; Safeguards in transportation of plutonium, from Mr P. J. Seabury.

Leading articles: Old chiefs: new towns; Confrontation in Pakistan. Sports pages 9-11. Football: Norman Fox believes championship lies between Liverpool and Ipswich; Goal: Lions know Spanish wine Portuguese open; Racing: programmes for 16 meetings; Rugby Union: Peter West sees an entertaining Barbarian victory.

HOME NEWS

Meal supervision cuts may force heads to close schools for lunch

From Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent
Eastbourne

The largest organisation of head teachers in Britain has warned the Government that schools may have to close at lunchtime in areas where local education authorities are reducing the number of meal supervisors in spending cuts.

The National Association of Head Teachers, which has 15,000 members, is writing to Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to tell her that teachers are refusing to step in voluntarily for the supervisors and it may no longer be possible for head teachers to keep schools open during the midday break.

Mr Philip Bowden, chairman of the association school meals working party, said: "We are giving this warning about what could happen from school midday closures so that everyone can consider the implications in advance."

The heads want the meals service transferred from the education budget to the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said at his union's annual conference at Eastbourne that teachers would stop supervising school meals if they were no longer allowed free lunches for doing so.

They were standing by an agreement made with the Government in 1968.

Cuts in the education service were one of the main themes of the speech by Mr John Gwynne, the union's president, on Saturday. He told nearly 2,000 delegates that as the price of books

and materials rose, local authorities were cutting down on the money available to buy them.

When they wanted to make improvements they were at the same time making the size of classes larger.

He said that if a teacher ratio of about nine-to-one was right for one comprehensive school, Eton, with 1,200 pupils, it was right for others.

"Eton is perfect proof that the large comprehensive is not a wasteful organisation, nor is it a denial of opportunity to the bright. It is also an indicator of what can be achieved given sufficient resources."

Mr Gray criticized recent government statements in favour of state-run colleges for children between 16 and 18 instead of comprehensive schools for those between 11 and 18.

There might be strong arguments for developing them in some areas, but if the only argument in their favour was that they were the cheapest means of sixth-form provision, they would erode the possible effectiveness of comprehensive schools, he said.

The conference approved a pay rise under the social contract by which teachers will receive an extra £2.50 to £4 a week, less a small amount to compensate for the increase in the wages bill due to increments.

A move to ban National Front members from the union was rejected by the conference. Instead delegates supported an amendment stating that the best way to beat racism was through organized co-operation with trade unions and the development of an effective multicultural curriculum.

Selection at Tameside 'favoured boys'

By a Staff Reporter

A report due shortly from the Equal Opportunities Commission is expected to conclude that there was potential sex discrimination in the interim arrangements for the selection of pupils at Tameside, Greater Manchester.

Parents had complained that twice as many grammar school places were made available to boys as to girls last year after the newly elected Conservative council overturned Labour plans for comprehensive education.

Last December the council decided to select pupils for two of the five Tameside grammar schools, leaving the arrangements at the other three undisturbed. One of the two was for boys, the other being mixed, an arrangement clearly favouring boys. The commission concluded that if entry for all five had been selective there would have been no discrimination, since there would have been a balance of the sexes.

Having concluded that the interim arrangement was discriminatory, the commission has had to decide whether it could be described as unlawful. The report was handed in by the authors last week, and the full commission will discuss it on April 25, when a delegation from Tameside will also be heard.

The report has been drawn up on the assumption, disputed by Tameside, that if planning was through organized co-operation with trade unions and the development of an effective multicultural curriculum.

Councils, by implication, must ensure that their strategic planning is not potentially discriminatory. The report did not seek to prove that there had been discrimination against specific individuals.

The Tameside dispute goes back to last May, when the Conservatives won control of the council in the local elections and decided to implement their undertaking to revert to selective education.

Subsequently upheld by the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords in the face of objections from the Department of Education and Science.

The allocations for three grammar schools were left intact, but council invited applications for two grammar schools which Labour had planned to turn into sixth-form schools: 99 girls of 195 applicants won places, against 135 of 376 boys.



Children being escorted away from the clash of rival IRA organizations in Belfast yesterday, reported on page 1.

More time for servicing helps long-distance flights

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

British Airways airlines have undergone four main types of engineering check under a programme recommended by the Civil Aviation Authority on behalf of the Government.

They range from swift examinations between flights in which small faults reported by the flight crew are corrected, to big overhauls every two years, during which the aircraft are virtually taken to pieces and rebuilt. In between there are checks after 72 and 300 flying hours.

In the 72-hour check, which is being done by management and workers not involved in the present dispute, routine servicing is done. Such items as hydraulic fluid levels, oxygen bottles and safety straps are checked, and the airframe is out of service for a short time only. In the 300-hour check differ-

ent parts of each aircraft are serviced in rotation. The work normally takes all night, and for the duration of the dispute will have to wait for a slot in the day shift's schedule.

Because of the intensive nature of the airline's internal United Kingdom and European operation, most maintenance is carried out at night.

Long-distance services do not involve as tight an engineering timetable. Much longer periods during which the aircraft are scheduled to be on the ground are included in the programme, making it far easier for maintenance tasks to be completed during a dispute.

Some engineering work on long-distance airliners is also done at British Airways stations abroad. That is why British Airways has managed to keep most of its intercontinental flights operating, while up to yesterday the whole of the short-haul network was grounded.

Liberals confident of victory on petrol duty

By Our Political Staff

Liberals MPs, who were warned at the weekend by Mr Peter Hain, president of the Young Liberals, that they must regard themselves as being "on probation" at the start of the Liberal-Labour alliance in Parliament, are confident that they will bring a concession from the Government over the increased petrol duty.

At the last moment the MPs decided to abstain rather than vote down the Budget resolution authorising the 5p increase in duty. They pointed out that the same resolution also covered the duty on heavy oils, and they wanted to limit their action to petrol.

They are now exploring with the Government the possibility of removing the increase in duty on petrol during the committee stage of the Finance Bill.

According to the Liberals, there is a good chance that the Government will accept their arguments, and remove or reduce the increase.

The revenue thus lost could be recouped, the Liberals originally suggested, by consolidating the two rates of value-added tax into a single rate of 10 per cent. But the Chancellor is refusing to do that, on the grounds that it would raise the retail price index and make the third round of the pay policy even more difficult to negotiate.

He has said that the extra revenue would have to be obtained by extra duties on beer, wine and spirits.

During the Finance Bill committee stage the Liberals also hope to secure concessions on tax relief for company profit-sharing schemes, and lower taxes for widows.

At the Young Liberals' annual conference at Weston-super-Mare Mr Hain said: "We have to state clearly to David Steel: 'We put you and the Liberal MPs on probation.'"

He said that among their demands to the Government priority should be given to reducing unemployment, reversing the Government's attack on civil liberties, and replacing the Official Secrets Act with a Freedom of Information Bill.

Impeachment sought: A resolution seeking the impeachment of Mr Ronald Kirk Murray, QC, the Lord Advocate, over his handling of the Patrick Meehan case was carried unanimously at the conference yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Mr Patrick Meehan, who was convicted of the murder of Mrs Rachel Ross at Ayr in 1969, spent nearly seven years in prison before receiving a royal pardon and the offer of £7,500

compensation. Mr Ian Waddell, who had publicly confessed to the murder, was later prosecuted by the Lord Advocate and acquitted.

The resolution, from Scottish Young Liberals, demands that the Scottish Office inquiry into the circumstances of the Meehan trial should be held in public and should hear evidence from Mr Waddell.

It also urges Mr Steel, the Liberal Party leader, to introduce a Commons motion calling for impeachment.

The conference accepted by an overwhelming majority a motion from Mr Peter Hain that they take "appropriate action" to disrupt the proposed visit by President Amin of Uganda to the Commonwealth conference in Britain in June, if it takes place.

The motion called on the Government and the Commonwealth Secretariat to prevent President Amin's attendance. If he does, the motion commits the Young Liberals to join a national campaign against him and to disrupt his visit.

Mr Hain said there was a weekly shuttle service to take luxury goods from London airport, to support President Amin's regime. The campaign, he said, should be aimed at trying to cut trade links between Britain and Uganda.

He suggested that arms might also be sent on the "Stansted ferry". They were investigating that.

Mr Paul Hannon, political vice-chairman, said he did not oppose the conference's opposition to the "oppressive regime" but he was against trying to prevent Amin's attendance at the Commonwealth conference. President Amin was being used to discredit other African leaders, and it was too simplistic a view just to ban him, he said.

One thing Peter Hain and President Amin have in common is their love of publicity. I am sure the campaign would mutually benefit both of them."

Last night, Mr Patrick Coleman, aged 24, of Manchester, a railway supervisor, was elected chairman of the National League of Young Liberals. He succeeds Mr Steven Atack.

On Saturday the conference accepted a proposal that the National League of Young Liberals executive should organize and finance a national campaign for the legalization of cannabis.

By a large majority, however, the conference rejected a call that the executive should submit a motion to the next Liberal Assembly calling for the legalization of cannabis.

Submission and fury in Labour nursery

From Robert Parker

Blackpool

The Government is losing support because it is not implementing genuine socialist policies. Instead, "it is doing the Tories' job for them" and betraying the working class.

That is how the Labour Party Young Socialists, holding their annual conference in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, have been explaining Labour's recent by-election disasters, as well as the growth of unemployment and of Scottish and Welsh nationalism, the economic crisis and the country's apparent shift to the right.

The mood of the conference, although furiously outspoken on many issues, appeared to be one of resignation that the Conservatives will be returned to power in the next general election. One delegate talked of five or six years of Tory rule before the return of a truly socialist Labour government.

In the longer term, there was a definite and underlying optimism that socialism is inexorably spreading. But it was also heard to be believed that the Young Socialists support the Labour Party, and indeed have an excellent record of turning out to help at election time and of playing the role of nursery for the main party.

Time and again the Government came in for bitter attacks, for trying to prop up capitalism, for the Liberal-Labour pact and for its policies on housing, health, education and unemployment.

The failure of capitalism was blamed, repeatedly, for virtually all society's main problems: inflation, unemployment, the prospects for school-leavers, the failure of education, the probable collapse of the state of housing and the inner cities.

There was also a widely supported attack on the monarchy, and the conference voted for its abolition, with that of the House of Lords, the Privy Council and the nobility. The Church of England was also criticized, because of its integral connexion with the ruling class.

The Labour Party, which, as Sir Harold Wilson said, is a broad church, was also criticized from its youth movements, knowing that many of their best people become important members of the main party.

The conference continues today.

Victim was strongly pro-Saudi

Continued from page 1

Al-Hajri left 10 children, the ambassador said.

Mr al-Eryani said that Mr al-Hajri had come to Britain on March 16 with his present prime minister, Mr Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghanian, for talks with King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, who was also in London. Mr Ghanian, left Britain after four days, but Mr al-Hajri stayed on so that his wife could have medical treatment.

Government statement: The North Yemen Government last night condemned the assassinations, according to the middle East News Agency (Reuters reports from Cairo). A statement described the assassinations as "a heinous crime" and a "heinous crime".

"Diehard royalist": Qadi Abdulla al-Hajri was a diehard royalist of strongly pro-Saudi leanings (Paul Martin writes). After taking over as prime minister in December, 1972, he said only his service to the country accorded reached with the Marxist South Yemen regime and did his utmost to put paid to it.

Among the three members of the republican consultative council, North Yemen's ruling body at this time, he favoured the immediate unleashing of hostilities against the regime when relations between the two Yemens took a sharp turn for the worse a few months after he took office.

Later, after a visit by him to Riyadh in March, 1973, the worsening border situation between the two Yemens reached a point near war.

Qadi al-Hajri was accused at the time of reaching a secret agreement with the Saudis which ceded three former North Yemen provinces to the Riyadh regime and put an end to the efforts to reach a settlement of the Yemen problem.

He was dismissed from office in February, 1974, when President al-Iryani opened a new offensive to reach this rapprochement.

Obituary, page 8

'Scroungers' critic is demoted

Mr John Bourn, aged 28, a civil servant, has been demoted after an inquiry into his attack on "scroungers". He will lose £100 a year in pay and three days' holiday.

His colleagues, angered by what they regard as a "grave injustice", are to meet in Birmingham this week. They plan to urge other members of the Civil Servants' Association to take industrial action which could delay social security payments.

Mr Bourn, of Parkstone Crescent, Kingstanding, Birmingham, is refusing to move to his new post and intends to appeal against the penalty, which resulted from his protest about the scale of state payments.

He had told newspapers it was impossible to determine how every applicant for social security benefits was genuine. "If there is an element of doubt, we pay out," he said.

After a four-month inquiry, department officials in London have downgraded him and transferred him to regional headquarters in Birmingham, away from contact with the public.

Unions to seek newspaper talks

The TUC Printing Industries Committee has called this week for talks with the management of Beaverbrook Newspapers and Associated Newspapers on the implications of possible closer cooperation between the Daily Express and Daily Mail and London's two evening newspapers (Our Labour Staff writes).

Union leaders believe any deal to halt yearly losses of almost £6m by the evening newspapers and further losses by the Daily Express might involve job rationalisation proposals.

Three people die in coastal dinghy accidents

Three people died in sailing accidents in Scotland and Wales yesterday.

Mrs Anne Blackwell, aged 37, a teacher, of Normanton Drive, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, and Georgia Roberts, aged nine, of Dunvegan, Skye, died when their dinghy was overturned near Bannockburn, Loch Bracadale on the north-west coast of Skye.

Mr David Roberts, aged 42, the girl's father, and her sister, Catherine, aged 11, were recovering last night after being

rescued by local boatmen. It is understood that the dinghy capsized when caught by a gust of wind.

An RAF helicopter winched a man and the body of another from the sea after their dinghy capsized half a mile off Rhodol, Holy Island, Anglesey, when their dinghy was overturned near Bannockburn, Loch Bracadale on the north-west coast of Skye.

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MPs may debate new US policy on nuclear power

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

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A request for an urgent debate on the President's statement and on the report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (the Flowers report), which raises similar questions, was sent to the Government yesterday by Mr Tom King, the Opposition front bench spokesman on energy.

MPs of all parties are concerned about the implications of President Carter's statement for the British nuclear power industry and the development of fast breeder reactors, which the United Kingdom has a decisive lead.

They are disturbed by reports that British contracts worth hundreds of millions of pounds could be put in jeopardy by a change in United States policy.

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Newspaper's IMF loan report was not irresponsible

Complaints about an article published in the Sunday Times, asserting that the newspaper had had good reason to suppose the report was accurate, had taken adequate steps to check its accuracy, and defended publication.

The Press Council in its adjudication accepts that the editor and his staff believed the report was true and says that the steps they took to confirm it were reasonable. It supports the long-accepted rule that a newspaper need not reveal its sources.

Although the council was unable to determine the truth of the report, it accepts what the sources of its information.

Mr Crawford and Mr Evans said information had first come to them from someone acting as a consultant to the IMF. Mr Crawford then repeated it to

officials of the IMF, United States Treasury and Federal Reserve Board and to persons in high circles in Britain. It was not denied, and Mr Crawford and Mr Evans therefore believed the information.

The council adds, however, that it would be wise, in cases where publication is likely to have serious consequences, for an editor to make a clear statement to be sought from the authority or individual concerned, in this case the IMF and/or the United States Treasury.

The adjudication also says that the report as published may have given a false impression to some readers. It should have been clearer in the headline, sub-titles and at an early point in the article that the devaluation condition was a proposal to be put forward and that it came from an

authoritative but not a binding source.

The council concludes that, although the report contributed significantly to a substantial fall in the value of sterling the next day, the matter was in the editor's discretion. It rejects the complaints of irresponsibility.

Mr Viggers said yesterday that the Chancellor, Mr Healey, had referred to the report as "irresponsible and patently untrue", yet he had refused to participate in the Press Council inquiry. The Sunday Times report and the Chancellor's statement could not both be true.

Mr Viggers added: "It is arguable that the best interests of democracy are not served by private information being given to journalists which is denied to others, including members of parliament."

In brief

Liverpool jail arms find
Security at Liverpool prison was examined yesterday after two revolvers and a detonator had been found in the jail. Police officers with dogs made a search and Special Branch was called in.

Two prisoners, Martin O'Connell, serving a life sentence for his part in the Balcombe Street siege, and Harry Roberts, serving a 30-year sentence for the murder of three London policemen, were transferred from the prison after the discovery.

Matticide charge
Ronald Abrahams, aged 42, unemployed, of Wykebeck View, Hailton, Leeds, is to appear in court at Leeds today charged with the murder of his mother, Mrs Mollie Jean Abrahams, aged 65, at their home in Leeds.

Man falls to his death
Mr Steve Dickinson, aged 22, of Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield, fell to his death from a gas holder at Chesterfield yesterday. His body was found on a catwalk at the side of the holder.

Girl's body in stream
A man was being interviewed by police yesterday after the discovery of the body of Paula Kerry, aged five, in an old mill stream near her home at Keighley, West Yorkshire.

Death in party blaze
Mr Paul Nugent, aged 20, of Poulton-le-Fylde, near Blackpool, died and his fiancée, aged 19, was rescued unconscious in a fire after yesterday after a party at Poulton-le-Fylde.

Fishing limit starts
The Irish Government's unilateral declaration of a 50-mile exclusive fishing limit came into operation last night. Five naval vessels were put on alert.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded
Sun rises: 6.14 am. Sun sets: 7.50 pm.
Moon rises: 2.52 am. Moon sets: 12.27 pm.
New Moon: April 18.

Lighting up: 8.20 pm to 5.42 am.
High water: London, Bridge, 8.6 am (6.20 ft), Dover, 8.30 pm (6.1 m), 10.30 am (35.5 ft), 1.30 pm, 10.40 am (34.2 ft), Dover, 5.24 am (5.7 m), 11.50 am (38.2 ft), 1.50 pm (38.2 ft).
Low water: London, Bridge, 12.12 am (20.9 ft), 12.30 pm (6.1 m), 20.10 ft, 1.50 pm (25.0 ft).
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WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

Spanish Communists welcome their party's legal status

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, April 10

The Government has granted legal status to the Communist Party for the first time since General Franco overthrew the second Spanish Republic 38 years ago.

This was announced late last night in a communiqué issued by the Interior Ministry in Madrid after the Supreme Court had declared itself incompetent to rule on the question.

The decision means that the Communist Party can put up candidates in the coming general election.

When the decision was announced Spaniards were busy celebrating Easter. But later this week the move is expected to provoke a strong reaction from the conservatives, whose main coalition is led by Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne.

The legalization of the Communist Party is expected to pave the way for the immediate return to Spain of Señores Dolores Ibarruri, the octogenarian president of the Spanish Communist Party, known in the Civil War as La Pasionaria.

The Government justified its decision by pointing out that the Supreme Court had not found any valid reason to oppose legal recognition.

The initial reaction among politicians who had been in opposition to General Franco, was favourable. Significantly, this decision came after an announcement last week by the

American State Department, indicating that the Carter Administration did not oppose legal status to the Communist Party, but was wary of the prospect of communist domination of Western European governments.

Professor Ramón Tamames, the economist and a member of the central committee of the Spanish Communist Party, said that the decision was "an important step in the effective democratisation of the country."

He went on: "The recognition of the Spanish Communist Party by the Government is a demonstration of the political common sense, because it would be foolish and irresponsible to carry on with the pretence of so many years that it does not exist, with the persecution and oppression of a force whose roots are generally accepted as being evident throughout the country."

Señor Armando Lopez Salas, another Communist leader, said: "The legalization of the party will be a factor in the stabilization of political life."

Señor Luis Londo Lobato, who spent more than half his life in prison for his communist activities, said: "We will furnish proof of our democratic sincerity."

Moscow: Señora Ibarruri said here today: "I am ready to leave, my bags are packed." The Spanish Embassy said it was preparing to issue a visa.

Agence France-Presse.

Little time left for arms accord, US believes

From Fred Emery, Washington, April 10

The Carter Administration does not have the impression that Mr. Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, is "a sick man," but it believes that as "obviously, he is aging" at 70, there is an urgent need for a new nuclear arms reduction agreement to be completed before there is a change in the Kremlin leadership.

This was stated here today in a television interview by Mr. Paul Warnke, the Administration's chief arms negotiator who was one of the American delegation rebuffed in Moscow.

Mr. Warnke said he was sure Mr. Carter would be anxious to meet Mr. Brezhnev if it seemed likely that was the last chance of preventing a resumption of the arms race.

Several American observers in Moscow reported their shock over Mr. Brezhnev's bloated appearance and durred speech, and there have been suggestions in American newspapers that this resulted from cancer treatment drugs.

Mr. Warnke emphasized that the Administration's hopes for progress in the strategic arms limitation talks were still just hopes. He admitted that the Americans still had not received any counter proposals from the Soviet Union to the American position advanced in Moscow.

He reiterated Mr. Carter's willingness to consider Soviet objections that the American proposals for missile reductions and a halt on missile development were "inequitable."

Mr. Warnke confirmed recent intelligence assessments that the Soviet Union is ready to introduce about 15 new weapons systems, but he recalled that the United States had its new weapons, too.

Uganda minister asks to stay longer in Britain

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Mr. Godfrey Lule, the Ugandan Minister of Justice, who is visiting Britain, has applied to stay longer. He has asked for permission to extend his stay and this is being considered.

A Home Office spokesman said yesterday: "Mr. Lule was quoted by the Sunday Telegraph as saying he wanted to stay longer. He 'simply because of my health'. He had his family in Uganda."

Mr. Lule was one of three Ugandan delegates who recently gave evidence to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva over allegations of repression by President Amin's regime.



Mrs. Thatcher meets Chairman Hua Kuo-peng in Peking.

Tory leader visits garden of futility

Continued from page 1

their own purpose, while at the same time questioning the role of the unions, and suggesting that they should be seen as a weapon in the political battle with the pragmatists who now rule China.

During the two hours of talks with Chairman Hua, the Conservative Party leader has met Mr. Li Hsien-nien, the senior Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Huang Hua, the Foreign Minister, and Mr. Li Chiang.

In a speech at a farewell banquet last night, she laid special emphasis on the importance of future Anglo-Chinese trade.

Asked whether she agreed with the Chinese view that war between the West and the Soviet Union was virtually inevitable, she said that the leaders in Peking seemed to think "much more inevitable than I do."

She reiterated her view that peace could be maintained only through strength.

During the visit Mrs. Thatcher has seemed rather tense and unsure of herself and some of the questions she was asked today suggested that she had been inadequately briefed before leaving for China.

For instance, she appeared never to have heard of "barefoot doctors". However her hosts seem anxious to make her feel at home.

This evening Mrs. Thatcher toured a famous Soochow garden built in the sixteenth century by a disillusioned courier and named "The Garden of the Futility of Politics". No insinuation was thought to be intended by her hosts.

Mrs. Thatcher who is accompanied by her daughter and two aides, leaves tomorrow for Hangchow.

Peking, April 10.—Mr. Chip Carter, the President's son, arrived in Peking last night carrying a message of good will.

President Ould Daddah of Mauritania arrived in Kwangchow and Mrs. Shirley Temple Black, the former actress and former head of protocol at the American State Department, arrived in Peking yesterday.

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Pakistan riots claim 42 lives in cities

From Our Correspondent Lahore, April 10

The death toll in yesterday's Lahore clashes between protesters and security forces rose to 42 after a fresh count of casualties reports, according to opposition Pakistan National Alliance sources.

Last night, however, an official press release gave the casualty figures as eight dead and 150 wounded, including 87 policemen.

Yesterday's riots were one of the worst in the city's history. The clashes occurred after eight opposition-organized protest marches tried to reach the Punjab Assembly building, where the newly elected members were to be sworn in.

Peoples Party were being sworn in. Mr. Bhutto, the Prime Minister, had arrived in Lahore, on Friday to attend the swearing-in ceremony.

The opposition had boycotted last month's provincial Assembly elections after alleging that the general election had been rigged by Mr. Bhutto's party.

When heavily armed security forces drove the marchers back, preventing them from reaching the Assembly building, mobs set blazing banks and cars in The Mall, the city's main street.

The residence of Mr. Malik Ghulam Nabl, the province's Chief Minister, was also attacked and his official car set on fire. Police first used tear gas, then opened fire.

Eye-witnesses said the marchers were extremely militant and, far from turning tail, they bared their chests to the security forces to provide better targets.

Wave after wave of demonstrators tried to break through the police cordon protecting the Assembly but were forced to retreat by security forces.

The clashes continued for over eight hours. Eye-witnesses said two policemen were reported killed and about 90 injured. Percol bombs and grenades were also used against the security forces.

Sections of Lahore were desolated and all business was at a standstill.

In fresh clashes between police and anti-Government demonstrators today five people were killed in Karachi. Two were shot dead in Hyderabad and three in Multan.

This brings the number of people killed over the weekend to 42. The number of injured and arrested in the clashes is put at several hundred by unofficial sources.

The executive committee of Pakistan's Federal Union of Journalists has condemned the indiscriminate use of force against demonstrators and reporters.

Leading article, page 7

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Police clash with crowds of celebrating Basques

From William Chislett, Victoria, April 10

Thousands of police and civil guards manned road blocks around the Basque country today sealing off the city of Victoria where demonstrators fought running battles with the police.

The Government had banned the Basques from celebrating their national day.

Basque political parties called on the people to ignore the ban, to gather in Victoria and to demonstrate in favour of a total amnesty and political freedom.

The meeting was banned because the Government feared that extremist groups were out to wreck it.

The old centre of Victoria was busy with smoke bombs fired by the police at groups of demonstrators, who were mainly young and numbered several hundred.

The police then chased them down the narrow, twisting streets.

Easter high Masses were celebrated at the time. Some people went to church with their faces painted black in protest for Basque autonomy and for amnesty. They then demonstrated after the services.

When an attempt was made to place a banner in the Plaza de la Virgen Blanca, the police identified their action. The balcony of an old house caught fire from a smoke bomb, but it was put out by snow, which was falling heavily.

The fiercest clash came in a working class suburb just outside the centre. The police used water cannons against the demonstrators and fired rubber bullets. Barricades were thrown up, some of them made up of cars parked in the streets.

Demonstrators were let into flats by residents to take refuge. The Basque flag was waved during the demonstration, as well as a Valencian flag brought by the President Sadat's wife.

The police had begun on Friday night to turn people back.

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Husain trip to Washington and Assad visit to Moscow indicate thrust of new Middle East initiative

Peace moves without fanfares

From Robert Fisk, Amman, April 10

The next tentative round of Middle East peace discussions between Arab leaders and the superpowers will begin within the next eight days without the publicity which was attached to President Sadat's visit to Washington last week.

King Husain of Jordan leaves for the American capital this week by way of London, while President

A brush with Basil, or a tail of romance and adventure



Basil Brush talks to Philippa Toomey.

Superstars should be approached with caution and due reverence. Basil Brush, superstar of screen and theatre, is surprisingly unassuming. No entourage, no Rolls-Royce, no kind lady from Rogers and Cowan, just Ivan Owen, who is his manager, chauffeur, roadie, and reason d'être. "I was born at a very young age," Mr. Brush said reflectively, adding that his had been an unsettled childhood. The family was chased all over the countryside ("sometimes by the nicest people—beautiful young ladies on horseback") and the child decided that one day he would beat the unseemable at their own game and become pretty un-speakable himself.

In this, as we all know, he has succeeded brilliantly. Show business, after all, has always been the way up the social ladder for the underprivileged. "I was very clever at school—I always came top. I wasn't ever any good at sports, though. I don't think the sports master liked me very much. He used to enter me for some very strange events—like catching the javelin and heading the shot. Agony, absolute agony it was. I wasn't any good at shadow boxing either—I was shadow kept hitting back—I was the only kid in the school with a cauliflower nose."

It was, as one would have expected of an establishment that took the extensive Brush family, a very comprehensive school. After a slight contretemps over his attempt to join the school pack of Brownies (for the excuse that he was a cub already) he left school and the family got tired of being chased around and moved to the city. "There's a lot of us about," said Mr. Brush, counting up the numbers of his relatives spotted living comfortably in the suburbs.

After that there is a certain amount of mystery in his career. "I became interested in show business," he says, "and at a cocktail party I was introduced to David Nixon. He was looking for a likely sort of chap for his show, so I appeared on *The Nixon Line* in 1968 and when I had finished Mr. David's rires, Mr. Bill Cotton of the BBC invited me up to his office to have a Pokey Pola and said, how would you like a series of your own? I said I'd be delighted. Posh, you know." Now he is in his tenth season with the BBC, and is much in demand for guest appearances on other shows. Would he say that his progress has been

meteoric, oh, yes indeed. Sends shivers up me brush.

"One of the highlights of my career was the Palladium, of course. I got a lovely notice from Harold Hobson. He said 'Received with unalloyed delight'. I always keep my notices. I think I am an egoist, but life has been very hard and one appreciates the nice things that happen." He has also appeared before royalty—taking good care to keep ahead of Princess Anne and Prince Charles. ("I got on very well with the corgis.")

He goes to the theatre often. "I love the theatre. I had a call the other day from a man called Peter Hall (I think that's what his name was) but I just had to turn him down. About a play called *Volpone*, I believe. He did ask me to look in, but I told him I'd like to meet this Mr. Shakespeare—you have to meet the gag-writer first in showbusiness, you know. Well, he sort of coughed into the phone and vanished. What could I have said? There's a Mr. Ben Jonson, too—I haven't heard from him, either."

And now Paul Scofield is going to play the part. "Do you think he will mind knowing he's second choice?" said Basil, anxious to spare the feelings of a less widely known figure in the theatrical profession. "Perhaps I should invite him on the show..." Why not? Mr. Paul once appeared as the lead in a musical in his heart-throb days. "I did play Juliet once—didn't get many laughs—I do feel I was miscast. But then there really wasn't a good laugh in the whole show."

As the already known, Mr. Brush is part of a large, close family. "One of my sisters is in show business, too. She used to work for a magician who used to saw her in half, every day for years and years. She's given it up."

Where does she live now? "London and Manchester. There are moments when one feels for Roy North and his predecessor as Basil's friend, Derek Fowlds."

Basil Brush is one of those superstars who appears to have no life of his own, once off stage. He has a country retreat somewhere near Guildford with an ex-directory telephone number he has to keep changing as soon as the fans find out. They keep ringing up and laughing.

Does he have a—er—vixen and cubs? What happened to Maria Visen, his girl friend during *The Nixon Line*? Cast aside like a worn out glove? "Cer-

tainly not! Poor Maria—I'm afraid she just faded out of the picture." He lives in a basement in Kennington (sharing with Roy North) with a landlady, Mrs. Brown ("Joe Bugner in bloomers"). Then there's Cousin Cyril Brush, who is very close. A quiet chat with Mrs. Brown (a nice motherly woman who fears that poor Mr. Roy doesn't eat enough) reveals the fact that Cyril is older (Basil admits to being 11), tougher, described as a turf accountant ("Bookie's runner, he used to be," says Mrs. Brown) and has the family laugh, as do they all—the return of a spectral Uncle Bertie from the great beyond demonstrated that the HA HA HA that has split a million ear drums is something you can take with you. Cousin Cyril could be a bad influence—the Pokey Pola parties that go on after the show produce a number of empty bottles that worry Mrs. Brown—whatever will the doctor think?

Efforts to trace Mr. Brush's parents failed. "The Mater and Father were rather disapproving when I expressed a wish to go into showbusiness," said Mr. Brush. "They prefer not to be mentioned." I tracked them down to the Home Counties. Letters, telephone calls, telegrams went unanswered and unacknowledged. They had gone to ground. While journalists are, as a rule, encouraged by their editors to do their own digging, I felt that no one had ever envisaged actually using a spade. Imagining amazing scenes with the Press Council, I gave up. Definitely a fox pos.

How does it feel to be considered a cult, a legend in your lifetime, an institution? "It's terribly kind of people to say so. I get asked this so often that I always say that I won't do anybody any harm and I won't do anybody any good, either. BOOM! BOOM!" he roars, digging me painfully in the ribs with an extremely sharp nose. "HA! HA! HA!"

If there is one cloud in his sky, it is the thought that his hit song *I've got tears in my eyes*, a plaintive and romantic ballad (the second line runs "through lying on my back and crying over you") is now not likely to feature in the Eurovision Song Contest. There is possibly another cloud he hasn't noticed yet—small, green, frog-shaped, called Kermit.

But Basil will be back on the screen later in the year. He's got the world by the brush, he's the Twentieth Century Fox.

Philippa Toomey

The last round in the fight to save Grand Central

A new round is to be fought this month in the long struggle over Grand Central Station, one of the main landmarks of New York. The Court of Appeals, the highest court in New York State, is to begin hearings in Albany on the much-criticized plan to transform the whole look of the station by building a 59-storey office tower on top of it.

The spade itself will not be demolished if the plan is approved, and its interior, at least, will remain intact. But as seen from outside, the station will be completely dwarfed by the new skyscraper, and its ornate facade, built between 1903 and 1913 in the style of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, will largely vanish.

There has been opposition to the plan ever since it was first put forward, in slightly different form, in 1968. Since then it has been almost continuously in the courts, with both its supporters and its opponents winning different rounds. The opponents are now apprehensive about how the Court of Appeals will rule, and are doing all they can to attract public support.

At a recent conference in February, Mr. Frederic Papert, the president of the Municipal Art Society, said that Grand Central was "The most beautiful railroad station in the world and one of the greatest buildings left standing in America." It was also "the sentimental heart of the city" and it was vital that its landmark status should be preserved.

He was backed by Mrs. Jacqueline Onassis, who has lent her name to the cause of saving Grand Central. "Grand Central station stands as a

universal symbol between New York City's past and present," she said. "It has held its own for 64 years. It would be a tragedy to let it be desecrated now."

Grand Central is undoubtedly an integral part of the New York scene, and in the past had much to do with the way the city developed. The first station was built on the site in 1867 by Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, the railway tycoon. The present building has been widely praised as an outstanding piece of architecture, which solved the large numbers of passengers at a time when railway travel was at its peak.

For years, its southern facade, with the figures of Mercury, representing "The Glory of Commerce", Hercules, for "Moral Energy", and Minerva for "Mental Energy", was an imposing sight from Park Avenue. Inside was the great elliptical vault, 125ft high at its apex and painted with the constellations, which covered the main concourse.

Much has changed, however, in recent years. The station's facade is now overshadowed by the Pan American building, completed in 1962, which towers behind it. The Penn Central Transportation Company, which owns Grand Central, has gone into bankruptcy and has made an arrangement with Mr. Morris Saady, the British developer, for the construction of the office tower above it.

The new building has been designed by Mr. Marcel Breuer, a well-known architect, and has not drawn any criticism for itself. The objections, which are made by the Committee to

Save Grand Central and a long list of architectural and civic associations, are that it is "barbaric" to build a skyscraper on top of a building of the quality of Grand Central.

In reply, Penn Central maintains that Grand Central is its property, and that it has the right to do whatever it thinks fit with its own property. They also underline that not only to maintain the station building under the new tower, but to restore the whole concourse area, and thus, they consider, is enough.

Much of the legal argument has turned on the designation of Grand Central as a landmark, which protects it from alteration. Penn Central and Mr. Saady have been twice before the New York Landmarks Commission—once with a design in which the facade of the station would remain visible under the skyscraper, and once with a revised scheme in which the facade would be almost entirely concealed, to avoid incongruity—and each time permission has been refused.

They then went to the Supreme Court of New York State with an application for the removal of the landmark designation, and their application was granted in 1975. But this decision was reversed by the court's appellate division the same year.

The case has now reached the Court of Appeals, where briefs have been filed by the Committee to Save Grand Central and the City of New York opposing the plan to build the office tower. Hearings are due to begin in Albany on April 27.

Peter Strafford

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments

NON-SECRETARIAL

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President of major European company based in Germany with interests from banking to the theatre requires an intelligent assistant to run his London office. Reply in confidence.

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Only the
kiss of life can save
our cities

CITIE

for looking ahead. We had the Wilson technological revolution," the swinging London scene and the Beatles. Today the sad reality is that the technological revolution has created problems which we either failed to understand, or blindly refused to see. The excitement of the period has turned almost to despair, with the continuation and extension of miserable ghettos, racial tensions, decay, decline and wholesale disillusionment. Reports all suggesting various solutions to the problems of the inner cities proliferate.

they remain largely inoperative, adding further to the discontent and disillusionment of the people.

from the Afro/Asian/Caribbean Standing Committee Merseyside which said, "Inner Areas Study Reports have been published, reciting the same tales of woe and misery, unemployment, poor housing, precarious race relations, etc. What? There have been more

other reports of the same kind... No serious consideration has been given to many recommendations in these reports."

That cry from the heart must not go unheeded. The announcement by Denis Healey that

£100m is to be made available over two years is a start, but is not enough. The statement made last Wednesday by Peter Shore, that other monies would be available from urban aid and the construction industry also very welcome. However, more, much more, is needed.

In February this year, the Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield local authorities, submitted memorandum to James Callaghan, based upon Peter Shore's speech in Manchester on February 14.

September 17 last year. Pei Shoré had said: "Twentieth-century civilization has been based upon cities . . . cities serve and sustain the whole region around them in cultural, social, and economic terms. If cities fail, so to a large extent does our society. That is the urgency of tackling the problem."

The problems listed in the memorandum common to most inner cities were:

- Social and educational deprivation of households (including loss of self-confidence).

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- Social... and educational deprivation of households (including loss of self-confidence).

The plan estimated that be-

Deficiencies in local open space and other environmental conditions including traffic conditions.

(Liverpool, alas, has many open spaces because of wide spread clearance. What is required there is urgent redevelopment and resettlement of the land.)

We need an entirely new approach to the problem of inner cities. It is very pleasant to see that the Government

developing new ideas with E. concept of partnership between itself and the local authorities of Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester/Salford and London. Nevertheless, I would hope this partnership concept will lead to new inner city agencies. These could be rather like the New Town Development Agencies and con-

The government department concerned with the problems must be co-ordinating so that resources can be readily available for job creation to develop nursery industries for housing, and especially for the training and establishment of small businesses. Small businesses are the key to the industrial regeneration of the inner cities.

These problems are understood. The Inner Area Study published by the Department of the Environment clearly reveal what is needed. We need to take a giant step towards the future and deal with the problems before it is too late.

The author is Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton.

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alls should now be examined thoroughly in the context of the Coal Board's plans to open 10 new mines by the year 2000. The market for coal must be established beyond reasonable doubt. If it is demonstrated that there is need for a specific number of new mines, then it is still possible to ensure that they are sited where they will cause the least environmental damage.

This may well increase the reluctance costs, but as I have said, it will also change the decision as to whether certain areas can be preserved from development, and what the cost of doing it will be. That is a more economic and environmental consideration than is looked at together. Looking at them separately in a planned inquiry commission and enforcement commission would make sense. They are part of the same problem. A ranging inquiry, free of political restrictions, would be the best way of examining the whole issue. Selwinger presses the case for an opportunity for it; it should be grasped with delay.

provides an opportunity to examine the whole of the Coal Board's development plans. The coal industry's future needs to be reappraised in the context of national energy needs and environmental policy. Before a single new pit is sited, the whole energy market should be examined in full. It is no use mining coal just to go into stockpiles. The NCB and the CEEGB investment programmes need to be looked at together in order to make sure that all the coal that is mined can, in fact, be sold.

Although little is yet known of the environmental effects of new coal mines in rural areas, there is, at least, a prototype scheme in the development of the Selby coalfield in Yorkshire. Developing that field to comply with environmental standards would do much to reassure the people of the north and other areas. The problems over the siting and design of pit head buildings that have arisen there are unfortunate from this point of view. The NCB has a unique opportunity in Selby to prove its competence as a developer, and its activities should be followed most carefully.

The Vale of York inquiry propo-

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This may well increase development costs, but at least we ought to have the chance to decide whether certain areas can be preserved from development, and what the cost of doing it will be. That is a social and economic and environmental consideration never looked at before. In looking at them so seriously in a planned inquiry commission and energy commission would be unfortunate. They are part of the same problem. A widening inquiry, free of political restrictions would be the best way of examining the whole issue. Belvoir press the ideal opportunity for it. It should be grasped with delay.

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New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

OLD CITIES: NEW TOWNS

Unlike most men in public life, Mr Peter Shore seems to get little satisfaction from the idea of a grand unveiling. He shows no impatience for the limelight publication of a housing finance review will place him in. As for his strategy for urban development, Mr Shore has been letting out a detail here and a suggestion there for months—leaving to Mr Healey the glory of announcing a subsidy of £100m—as if on purpose to minimize the drama of the White Paper that he has promised us very soon. The policy thus thoughtfully brought to light is a thoroughly one, wary of the dangers of large-scale scattered indiscriminate on high and of elevating one aspect of a complex problem to a false prominence. We shall have to wait for the White Paper to see exactly how the elements hang together.

There were two more instalments last week. One developed Mr Shore's ideas about partnership arrangements between central governments and councils with severe urban problems, reaffirmed his belief that the principal means of directing public funds to the inner cities should be rate support grant rather than special subsidies, and announced the Home Office's urban programme would be transferred to his own department. The programme was originally given to the Home Office with the idea of holding in balance the diverse functions usually performed by the planning and social services departments. But now that the project is no longer experimental, it is sensible to give control of it to a Department of the Environment that ought in any case to be alive to these wider relationships.

Mr Shore's other announcement was in its way a landmark in British planning history. His outline of a smaller future for the new towns is not as savage as might have been feared, but his talk of "a sound basis for the final stage of our new town programme" did set a termination on an adventure that goes back thirty years (or, if the garden cities movement is

included, and it should be, back to the 1920s and beyond). The decision follows almost inevitably from our loss of confidence in limitless economic growth and from the continuing fall in our birth rate. But since nothing is so soon despised as an idea once it has got about that its time has come and gone, it is worth putting in a word for the new towns movement and its achievements, and for the role that growing new towns should play even in changed times.

There is almost a nostalgic pathos now about the prospect of the 1960s for the third generation of new towns. Such buoyancy, such boldness, such play with nodes and networks, with linear cities and flexible grids, such confidence in summing up landscapes in summing up the city centre developments has been used to create a belvedere "and confronting landscapes" (the central Lancashire city was to reach out north-eastwards to take advantage of "the aesthetic opportunities for close integration of the new architecture with the outlying fells of the Forest of Bowland... and the noble landscape of the Ribblesdale valley"). And "quickly", every plan repeats—it will work if it is done quickly.

The aspirations of the planners have been fulfilled, as far as reality can ever be expected to fall in with ideas on such a scale. Inevitably there have been errors for the early ventures assumed too low a level of car ownership, for instance, and Milton Keynes probably assumed one that will prove too high—but on the whole Britain has good reason to be proud of the new towns. It is not true that their success has been substantially at the expense of the older cities that have been losing employment and population. They have helped to relieve pressures that still need relief and have made contributions to regional and national prosperity that would often never have been made otherwise. Their value in the new conditions was reaffirmed very recently by the strategic plan for the northern

region and the revised plan for the south-east. Even if population is static, the trend to smaller households continues, and the yearning to get out of the slums remains. It is far more likely to be the expensive and often brutal inner city housing developments of the recent past that will seem—already seem—to have been misconceived.

There is a momentum about these things. Several cuts would affect the confidence of industrial investors in the towns, disrupt the process of bringing into being a community that is fit to live in at each stage of development, and waste a proportion of a heavy public investment on infrastructure and services (though the full burden on public money even of Milton Keynes would have been far less than the development costs of Concord, for instance).

Lowered targets on the scale Mr Shore envisages will not cripple any major project (with one exception—the city in central Lancashire, which is still at an early stage, and which it might have been better frankly to abandon). But this must not be the first of a succession of raids. For some older towns like Harlow, the announcement marks the end of the time of expansion. In the foreseeable future there will clearly be no more starts on other new towns. For all the towns the announcement should enforce the already acknowledged need to receive from the inner cities the unskilled and disadvantaged on a greater scale than before. For some, it should also mean greater efforts to make work in the new towns accessible to people living in nearby depressed areas. And for the practitioners of the art of creating cities, not only on empty fields, as in the early days, but in harmony with existing communities like Peterborough and mid-Buckinghamshire, the next stage of their art must be to face the far more complex challenge of densely settled city centres, burdened with obsolescent industries and entrenched parochial interests, and far declined in morale.

Rhodesia transition to majority rule

From Lord Alport

Mr. Michael Kappe's article on Rhodesia and Roger Berthoud's report of Dr. Owen's plans for his forthcoming tour of Southern Africa in your issue of April 6 must have filled many of those who, like myself, were looking for a transition to majority rule in Zimbabwe with a sense of exasperation bordering almost on despair.

We learn that yet another Secretary of State is going out to set up a constitutional conference to be attended by the same black and white politicians whose attitudes are known to be irreconcilable. Has Dr. Owen never heard of the constitutional conference of 1967 of Tiger, of Fearless, of the Home Goodman negotiation or of Geneva? Mr. Berthoud says "by whom the constitution would be implemented would have to be discussed afterwards". He adds, presumably on the basis of Foreign Office briefing, that there might be more reasonable white leaders than Mr. Smith to take part in the negotiations. Who are they and whence will they derive their authority? Does he think that the Mashona based UANC and the Matabele based Patriotic Front are going to sink their differences at the conference table? Will either agree to a constitution which entrenches the other in power?

The "Front Line Presidents" have been right in one respect. They tried to unite the Rhodesian Africans in a single political party. The United African National Council was the result. Since then President Nyrere and his colleagues have swung the support of the Patriotic Front in the belief that the latter would dislodge the Rhodesian Front by force, with the help of communist arms and Cuban mercenaries.

But what evidence is there that if this happens there will be majority rule in Zimbabwe? There will certainly be a lot of dead—black and white—but the outcome will be a military dictatorship. Why is it that the Rhodesian Africans, who are more politically conscious, have failed to unite? They are more educated and more sophisticated than any other in Central Africa, should have their destiny decided for them "at the muzzle of a gun".

One of the six principles was that any constitutional settlement for independent Zimbabwe should be acceptable to a majority of the people of Rhodesia.

Why not ask the people of Rhodesia—black and white—with whom they wish power to reside?

Liberal-Labour pact

From Mr Richard Lamb

Sir, History is on Bernard Levin's side when he prophesies electoral disaster for the Liberals as a result of the Steel-Callowan pact (see *Evening Standard*, April 5). In the short 1924 Parliament and again from 1929 to 1931 the Liberals under first Asquith and then Lloyd George kept Ramsey MacDonald's government in power by the counter understanding that the Liberal candidates and MPs were put into impossible situations in their constituencies because they were forced to defend the government's record for which they had no responsibility, while at the same time Labour launched savage constituency attacks on the Liberal candidates. The pact against the working class chiefly because they would not support nationalization or a capital levy.

The petrol tax affair shows only too clearly that Steel has put Liberal candidates into a similar position in the constituencies again. The signs are that the next general election, whether this year, next year or 1978, will be disastrous for the Liberal Party as were by-elections and general elections in 1924 and 1931.

Nationalist pressures

From Mr David Green

Sir, The Conservative and Labour Parties and the traditional political pattern which they have imposed on the United Kingdom—owe their origin to the gulf separating the condition of those with capital from labour. Preeminently the distinction was economic, but it was also cultural and social. That gulf has narrowed to the point at which it is barely perceptible—evidenced and legitimized by the interchangeability of members of both parties.

It has been replaced by—and perhaps has, by its erosion, thrown into sharper relief—the gulf separating those in the various regions of the United Kingdom. Again the distinction is preeminently economic; but it is also social and cultural. There is now a far wider gap between those in Wales, Scotland and England—and indeed between the regions of England—than there is between any of the socio-economic groups within those regions.

This process has already been acknowledged in the major growth of the SNP in Scotland, and is fast developing with Plaid Cymru in Wales. As it develops those parties have moved in towards the centre ground in politics, eschewing the extremes that attended their foundation.

There are clear signs in the Stockfish-by-election that the same

Letters to the Editor

We are not dealing with the niceties of sophisticated constitutional arrangements. We should not be influenced by the respective killing power of communist armed guerrillas or the Rhodesian Army and the British South African police. We should be seeking to find out what the majority of the people, who are to live and work in the Zimbabwe of the future, really want.

I do not know what they would decide. But I do know that the Rhodesian Front government believe that a referendum is practicable. I do know that at any rate the UANC are prepared to put their fortunes to the hazard of a vote—if others are unwilling, let them be judged accordingly. I do know that there are methods of organizing a referendum which have been successful in India and Kenya, and which could be applied to Rhodesia. I am certain that to have credibly any such referendum must be supervised by an international team which could be provided by Great Britain, the United States and the OAU.

Of course, there will be difficulties. The faction which sees itself losing will resort to violence. The guerrillas will have to turn from the use of their guns to casting their votes. Europeans in Rhodesia will have to accept that Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe should take part in the referendum. All this will be very distasteful to many people, but the alternative is to see all past achievement and future hope for black and white in Rhodesia being gradually dissolved into a human disaster such as has characterized Angola and Mozambique.

If the British Government still believes that the future of Zimbabwe should be decided by the majority of black and white people in Rhodesia and not by the "Front Line Presidents" or by communist weaponry, the people of Rhodesia should be given the chance of choosing with whom power should ultimately lie. I am certain that this is possible if the United Kingdom, the United States and the Republic of South Africa are prepared to underwrite such a policy. I am certain that Mr Nkomo's final words "disaster is daily closing" will be conclusive evidence of the bankruptcy of statesmanship among the governments of the free world.

Yours faithfully,
ALPORT,
House of Lords,
April 7.

Still this overlooks one important point. Until 1950 Labour always allowed Liberals straight fights with the Tories in certain constituencies where Labour support was minimal. Both Callaghan and Steel want moderate centre of the road government, and so they both have in mind that Lib-Lab cooperation ought eventually to lead to constituency agreements which would produce straight fights for Liberals in certain Tory held seats. Without Labour intervention Liberals must hold all their present seats and could be likely to win Leominster, Bodmin, Newbury, Chippenham, Salisbury, North Dorset and others. Then an overall Tory majority would be far less likely.

Liberal MPs sincerely believe a Thatcher government would be worse than any Labour government. Nor can Callaghan be governed with its current negative programme, but if constituency agreements and straight fights are no more than a slight in Steel's eye his eagerness to keep Thatcher out has probably ditched his party's support for some years.

Yours truly,
RICHARD LAMB,
Knightsbridge Manor,
Broadchalke,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

process is developing in England—the move towards moderation of the National Party and in the results it achieved.

So long as moves towards a federal structure, that allows constitutional recognition of the differing regional interests, are frustrated, these nationalist moves will intensify, and will increasingly threaten the national unity which those who resist devolution assert as their concern. Nationalist pressures from Scotland and Wales will inevitably evoke a nationalist response in England.

The record of Westminster governments in recognizing the inevitable before it overwhelms them does not encourage the view that the main parties will be any quicker in acting to avert conflict on their own doorstep than they have been elsewhere. The secession of some Scottish Labour members indicates very clearly a route which the major parties could follow in the interest of their political survival nationally and of the national fabric. But unless they do recognize and act in anticipation of the tide it will overpower them. Much else of value may be lost with it.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhyl, North Wales,
Castell Ynallt, North Wales,
Pembrokeshire,
April 5.

The fall of Rome

From Dr Averil Cameron

Sir, I am surprised that no Roman historian has joined in the correspondence elicited by Dr Tony Smith's article "Was it disease that fell Rome?" (March 21). The overall effects of disease may have been overestimated by some historians, perhaps, and the second and third century plague outbreaks were certainly serious (though possibly not so disastrous as contemporaries naturally feared).

But lead poisoning in the city of Rome (see Professor Joseph Black's letter, April 5) cannot explain the "decline" of a whole empire; and the trouble with using *I. Claudius* (even tongue-in-cheek) as an example of "degeneracy" is that the empire did not fall in the first century AD, but survived for another four hundred years. The empire that fell was not that of the lecherous Julio-Claudians; it

Nuclear power and civil liberties

From the Secretary of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

Sir, Mr Sieghart's letter of March 31 raised some points on "Nuclear power and civil liberties". He will be aware that the Department of Energy has received questions on the social and political implications of nuclear power from the organizations responsible for the pamphlet to which he refers. In a recent Parliamentary reply, Mr Eadie undertook to place copies of answers to these questions in libraries of both Houses. I should, however, like to comment now on some of the points raised in Mr Sieghart's letter.

1. Our nuclear programme already supplies more than 10 per cent of our electricity and we have been dealing with plutonium in Britain for well over 20 years. There is nothing new, therefore, in the extraction of plutonium.

2. I do not know on what basis it is stated that it is not practicable for the reprocessing to take place at power stations. A possible solution to any future problem of transporting plutonium is to use a group of small number of fast reactor power stations with their own reprocessing plant. It does not follow, therefore, that increasing quantities of plutonium will be transported between the reprocessing plant and the fast reactor in the future as Mr Sieghart claims. Even if this were not done at all, however, Mr Sieghart's source is wrong to suggest that thousands of tons of plutonium would be transported in Britain each year. The figure is at least 10 times too large and, for a long time to come, perhaps 100 times too large.

3. The implication of the next three points which Mr Sieghart makes about the transportation of plutonium is that it would not be very difficult for a terrorist group to hijack and turn it into a nuclear device. However, for the type of nuclear programme discussed by Mr Sieghart, the plutonium will be moved as a mixed oxide with uranium, the plutonium content being such that the chemical treatment will be required to separate the plutonium before even a start could be made on the manufacture of any nuclear bomb.

4. Mr Sieghart says that plutonium could become "unaccounted for" during transportation so that a group of years the figure is at least 10 times too large and, for a long time to come, perhaps 100 times too large. However the security procedures used to safeguard plutonium would ensure that any physical loss would not go undetected.

5. Mr Sieghart speaks particularly of the Atomic Energy Authority's Constabulary. The Constabulary consists of special constables appointed and duly sworn in, under statutory authority (The Special Constables Act 1923). The AEA (Special Constables) Act 1976

Prison discipline

From Mr Graham Zellik

Sir, Can your readers really believe, ask the Governor of Brixton Prison (March 28), that it is necessary for prisoners to make their complaints on smuggled lavatory paper? Since prisoners are not allowed to make these approaches openly, they are forced to adopt methods of this kind when the official channels have been tried and found wanting. Mr Wigninton would have you believe that the internal machinery was beyond question, but the points made in his letter, while substantially accurate, convey a seriously false impression.

(1) For reasons I have recently advanced in these columns and need not repeat ("Why prisoners should have an ombudsman for their own", October 4, 1976), access to the board of visitors and the Home Secretary is not an adequate protection.

(2) There is no right to call witnesses as disciplinary adjudications. The consent of the chairman is required. No prisoner is ever compelled to testify as they could in an ordinary court; and very often, for obvious reasons, they are reluctant to do so.

(3) Over 60 prisoners are in segregation "for the maintenance of good order or discipline" under

rule 43 on any one day. Mr Wigninton stresses the protection afforded by the board of visitors; but as the Jellicoe committee said of this in 1975: "On the face of it this is an important safeguard, but it is less impressive when it is realized that the member does not ever to see the prisoner concerned, and that any member can be consulted, by telephone if necessary. As a check on the abuse of authority we are not convinced that this procedure is sufficiently effective."

(4) It is the very fact that a prisoner may be punished for making a false and malicious allegation that discourages the making of complaints against staff and vitiates the whole complaints machinery. It will be recalled, for example, that not so long ago Myra Hindley was severely punished for this offence, only later to be vindicated when the truth fortuitously emerged.

It is as important to have impartial and independent repudiation of the unfounded allegation as it is to expose improper conduct when it is proved. The former may be the easier, but the latter is more important. The existing machinery is incapable of doing either.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ZELICK,
Queen Mary College,
University of London,
Mile End Road, E1.

As a check on the abuse of authority we are not convinced that this procedure is sufficiently effective."

Yours faithfully,
P. J. SEARBY,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
11 Charles II Street, SW1,
April 5.

Moving from the Treasury

From Mr Anne Stevens

Sir, In leaving the Treasury for private enterprise Mr Alan Lord and Sir Derek Mitchell are following a pattern that has long been commonplace amongst senior French officials, especially in the financial field. The advantages of such moves—the possibilities for increased understanding between government and industry; the opportunities opened up for younger men—are often cited by those who admire the French system. This disadvantage, which the generalization of such a practice can entail—the possibilities for abuse and collusion—are also vehemently denounced by many French critics.

Perhaps, like his French opposite number, British business is beginning to grow and even pay for their qualities and skills of senior public servants. Has the hoary old myth of the amateur taken another blow? Yours faithfully,
ANNE STEVENS,
40 Elm Road, SW14,
April 2.

Flattering flora

From Mrs John Marshall

Sir, While not claiming to be an expert in horticultural matters, I believe I can answer Mr M. E. Hayward's question about his weeds (April 2).

I think the reason why plants whose owners talk to them seem to flourish better than the rest is that, when addressing a plant from close to, in whatever terms, such blows carbon dioxide over it. And this, during the daytime, is what it likes to breathe. It is rather like giving extra oxygen to a human patient.

Therefore, I suggest that Mr Hayward should refrain from speaking to the weeds at all by day. He might try the effect of haranguing them at night when they want oxygen instead of carbon dioxide! Yours faithfully,
JOSEPHINE MARSHALL,
27a Barkston Gardens, SW5.

AN UGLY CONFRONTATION IN PAKISTAN

As soon as the decision to hold elections in Pakistan was announced early in January violence was reported from several towns, even between factions of Mr Bhutto's own party. The troubles went on throughout the election campaign, following allegations that the nomination of opposition candidates had been frustrated by kidnapping them on the eve of nomination day and that those in prison by reason of their opposition to Mr Bhutto's Government had had their candidatures rejected. The total of dead and wounded when security forces opened fire on demonstrating crowds mounted up and seemed likely to add to the political resentment.

Things got worse when the election results were announced on March 8. One hundred and fifty-five seats in the 200-member assembly were awarded to Mr Bhutto's People's Party and only thirty-six went to the opposition. The opposition Pakistan National Alliance—grouping nine fairly small and ill-assorted parties—then organized massive demonstrations alleging wholesale rigging and demanding that the elections be annulled. Two weeks later these demonstrations gained even more steam when

Mrs Gandhi's considerable defeat in the Indian election carried the implication that, but for the rigging of Pakistan, too, might have overthrown its ruler and its own state of emergency to boot. The violence in Lahore over the weekend not only shows how strong the pressure still remains; in so far as the Punjab is the most important of Pakistan's constituent provinces it is there that Mr Bhutto's electoral record must stand or fall.

There can be little doubt that rigging did go on; Mr Bhutto's style of government would have encouraged such initiatives on the part of his followers even if nothing had been said or done by the party headquarters. The Chief Election Commissioner has since admitted that he had to rely on official machinery which was not under his direct control and that the Commission could not be blamed for the misdeeds of others. But there can also be little doubt that even had there been no rigging the opposition alliance would not have won the election. Conditions in Pakistan, though scarcely less restrictive of freedom than those of Mrs Gandhi's emergency in India, were admittedly more critical by virtue of the 1971 disaster in East Pakistan and the

emergence of Bangladesh. Several of Mr Bhutto's evicted or disappointed colleagues had joined the opposition alliance but none of them enjoyed the national status of figures such as Mr Jayaprakash Narayan or Mr Morarji Desai in India.

While refusing to meet the opposition's insistent demand for fresh elections, Mr Bhutto has met the demonstrators with a mixture of conciliation and force. His early reactions to the opposition alliance seem to have been somewhat the same as Mrs Gandhi's were in the similar alliance in India in 1975 when she declared the emergency—that they were purely disruptive and unrepresentative. Since then Mr Bhutto has made concessions that might have satisfied his opponents had they been made more promptly. As it is most of the opposition leaders are now under arrest and they in turn have been displaying their intransigence; thus Air Marshal Asghar Khan has refused any release until fresh elections are called. Both sides have got themselves into an ugly confrontation which can only damage the country. Peace talks of some kind are now urgently necessary.

Value of examinations

From Mr David Terry

Sir, While agreeing entirely with the final proposal of your letter of the school examinations (April 5) that a truly comprehensive school must provide the opportunity to study to O level, there is much else where in the letter which I greatly regret, not so much for its substance as for the inferences which I fear will be drawn.

You say that a good CSE pass can be worthless in getting any kind of skilled work. No doubt you are correct; but one instance would suffice to verify your statement. In my experience it is generally true, and much more encouraging to those of average ability, to say that a good CSE pass is of considerable value on the job market. The form of your assertion, like the tone of the rest of the letter, will encourage employers to neglect those of average ability at school who may nevertheless possess most desirable qualities of diligence.

Worse still, it will encourage parents to press heads for their children to be put on CSE courses even if they are of only average ability and will have no chance of success. Such requests pose painful dilemmas to heads: to agree is to risk failure and disillusion, to refuse to place the pupil on a course which he will know his parents deprecate and which he will therefore consider a mark of failure to be placed on.

I do not for one moment suggest that all is well with the present dual exam system. The strongest argument of which you are clearly aware, for a single exam system is that the dual system forces artificial divisions into CSE and CSE groups, sometimes as much as two years before the date of the exam. Until we devise a satisfactory single system, we are, stuck with the present one and it is in the interests of all children—the majority of average CSE children as well as the minority of more able GCE ones, that there should be a general recognition of the value of each exam.

Jews at universities

From Mr C. M. Copeland, and others

Sir, The Times recently (March 19) carried a report on the limitation, by the local students' union, of the legitimate activities of the Jewish societies at the Universities of York and Salford, and on the attempted limitation of such activities by the Jewish society at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. This is clearly a serious matter for the students who are directly affected, even if the number of people involved is relatively small. A letter by Simon Caplan and Alan Elser in yesterday's *The Times* (March 29) deals with some aspects of this problem. But we believe that there are also much more serious political implications.

During recent years the students' unions at our various universities have acquired a much greater degree of autonomy than they used to have. They can administer their finances with little interference by university authorities; they can foster or inhibit all manner of activities, and they now possess very considerable degrees of patronage by providing subsidies for those student societies which have gained their approval. The money for these subsidies comes from the capitation fees paid to the unions by local authorities on behalf of students on maintenance grants.

All these developments are very desirable in principle for ideally they would help our students learn how to govern themselves sensibly and for the common good. Yet the recent experience at Salford, York and UMIST indicates that this is not the way that things have worked themselves out. It seems rather that the policies of the student unions are being made by pressure groups with rather unstable and undemocratic views. As might have been expected the majority of students take little notice of their activities. But occasionally the leadership raises an issue which attracts the attention of a substantial minority. There is no doubt for example that Arab students would be interested in any attempt to put an interdiction on Jewish societies, on the allegation that by supporting Zionism they are supporting racism. To our minds this illustrates the real danger.

Society in this country has become more democratic and has given students far more freedom than ever before. As a result totalitarian factions have acquired greater power in running student affairs. The student body is varied and cosmopolitan. There will often be some faction that will support whatever extremist view is being pushed by the current student leaders. When such an issue is put to the vote, the decision will often lie with students who come from other countries where there is not much democracy. This is a reduction to absurdum. We have allowed more freedom and have thereby fostered intolerance. We are letting democratic institutions be dominated by people who do not appreciate what democracy is. There must be a better way to run our affairs.

Yours faithfully,
C. M. COPELAND,
National Director,
Hillel Foundation.
RICHARD HANSON,
Chairman Manchester Area,
Council of Christians and Jews.
F. D. KAHN,
27 Ballbrook Avenue,
Manchester.
March 30.

SPORT

Rugby Union

Barbarians aim to put all their Easter eggs in one basket

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

At Easter 1976 Cardiff gave Barbarians a 24-point start and in a spectacular recovery inspired by Gareth Edwards snatched a remarkable 29-25 victory that left their opponents wondering what had hit them. But lightning, they say, never strikes in the same place twice—not at least in successive years—and on Saturday, though the home side finished strongly enough with two late scores, they could not repair a situation wherein their own possession had led to four of the six Barbarian tries.

Gravell probed powerfully in the Barbarian centre, but rusty perhaps from the injuries which could have cost him a place on the Lions tour, spilled some early passes. Gammell, in a performance on the wing that broke down more than made up for his earlier misadventure, when the ball stuck, to threaten constant danger and to stretch those lanky legs in a long way out.

Cardiff may yet bring their century season to a suitable climax with victory over Newport in the Welsh Cup Final, but Saturday clearly was not their day. Barbarians ran out comfortable winners by a goal and five tries (26) to a goal, a penalty goal and a try (13), and a crowd of around 15,000, the largest yet assembled on the present ground, Nines, conceded that, but for an unlikely surfeit of handling errors, and some indifferent kicking, the margin might well have been more handsome. As it was, a touring side drawn from the five nations came within a whisker of scoring three more, but the contest rated high for entertainment value, rather less for consistent quality.

Rives and Skirra soon were hoisting in on the loose ball,

Beaumont rampaging in the open, Cooper looking relaxed and polished on the end of a long, creative service from Lewis, Squires fastening on to the slightest chance and P. R. Williams predictably turning up for every possible feat. Cardiff's makeshift midfield looked plain, and their tactical kicking, that of a rather pale Edwards included was too often inaccurate.

Gammell lost the ball over the line after Skirra, with support from Madsen, Utley, Rives and Corless, had made the running in a counter-attack sparked off by Squires. Utley charged down a kick by Edwards, but knocked on with the line open. However, Barbarians made no mistake when Beaumont won a line-out, and Corless went over from an inside scrum. Edwards' kick at a C-miff lost a man behind the line, but a line-out and Lewis put Cooper across at short range.

Cardiff must have been thankful to turn round only 3-8 down. John Davies, having hit a post early on, kicked an easy penalty for the home side.

A wild pass by Edwards preceded that, and another indifferent feed from the same source led to a scrum, in which Squires and all but a further Barbarian score.

Frustration piled on frustration for Cardiff as first, Lane's feed to Edwards from a scrum was spoiled by Utley, and Williams' long pass set Gammell clear on the present ground. Nines, with no one to beat, knocked on a pass by Worgan. Then Cooper made a mistake, and the margin might well have been more handsome. As it was, a touring side drawn from the five nations came within a whisker of scoring three more, but the contest rated high for entertainment value, rather less for consistent quality.

Rives and Skirra soon were hoisting in on the loose ball,

Barbarians got the sixth, from their own ball at a five-yard scrum, "J.P.R." scissoring with Cooper, and bringing the house down as he bulldozed his way to the posts through some rather flabby tackling.

Cooper's conversion made it 26-3, but Cardiff kept at it, with their ubiquitous No 6, Lane, seemingly in everything, and Dudley Jones acquiring a stream of ball at the tail of the line-out. They had less joy in the middle of it against Williams, who always seems to raise his game in a Barbarian jersey.

Cardiff dropped a pass by Gammell set off one Cardiff attack that finished with a try by Thomas, one of two eager wings. A twinkle, characteristic run by Gerald Squires raised further hope, a thrust and dummy by Edwards ended in a combined tackle by Williams and Rives at the corner.

Finally, Lane's action, as Evans and Thomas slipped the last tackle for his second try, converted by John Davies.

Barbarians lost all four of their tour matches last year, but if things go well at Swansea today, and at Newport tomorrow, they will at least have a better record in their Easter egg hunt.

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Racing

Assez Cuite a tasty Nell Gwynn dish

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

This is the time of the year when the new season of flat racing really moves into first gear and this is a week when I and many others find fascinating. Tomorrow sees the start of the Craven meeting at Newmarket which holds the stage for the next three days. Then on Friday the spotlight switches to Newbury, where the menu is equally appetizing for another two days.

The principal races at Newmarket in the order that they take place are the Craven Stakes, which is the highlight tomorrow; the Wood Ditton Stakes, the Tote Free Handicap, the Abernethy Stakes and the Craven Handicap, all of which are on Wednesday, and the Nell Gwynn Stakes which forms the centrepiece of Thursday's racing.

William Hill, who won the William Hill Filling at Doncaster last October, Ryan Price's handsome colt Nell Gwynn, who was due to battle in the Craven Stakes, the Earl of Sefton Stakes will see the spotlight turned on Friday at Newbury. The Craven Stakes on his last visit to the course and who has been scintillating for almost five in the meantime.

Last year the Nell Gwynn Stakes was won by a filly trained in France, and it is already clear that in Assez Cuite the French will have another formidable challenger on Thursday. Last year Assez Cuite finished second to Bishington Groom at Longchamp and she will be hard to beat on that form. Unfortunately a high temperature as recently as last Saturday will probably prevent Lady More from taking on Assez Cuite, which is a pity because she would have given the French filly as good as she got, judged on the way she also ran at Longchamp in the autumn. Luckily all is well with her stable companion, Dural, who is due to try to win the Fred Darling Stakes, the classic trial for fillies on Friday at Newbury.

Three-year-old colts, considered to be up to classic standard, will get their opportunity to show what they are worth 24 hours later at Newbury in the Greenham Stakes, which is a very good test of stamina. The Newbury Spring Cup habitually makes this coming Saturday a particular favourite with the many who enjoy racing at the popular Berkshire course.

At Kempton Park on Saturday Rocket Symphony underlined what a strong hand Ryan Price has this year by winning the 4,000 Guineas

trial, which certainly exposed the limitations of Edegné Gerard, at least over a distance as short as seven furlongs. Price said later that he was pleasantly surprised with the ease with which Rocket Symphony won, which simply endorsed his view that this grey is a good horse if the making.

But, when you come to analyze his performance, it is clear that he still has some way to go before he reaches the top. Digabit, the colt that Rocket Symphony beat by a length and a half, was rated a stone behind. The Minstrel last year when he was trained in Ireland. Nevertheless by beating Digabit and Edegné Gerard the way he did Rocket Symphony went a long way towards proving that he is on the way up and that he was underrated in our own Handicap in which he was given only 7st 9lb.

Air Trooper, who was eliminated from the Lincoln Handicap by a consolation prize when he won the Rosebery Stakes. This was another example of blinkers having the desired effect at the first time of asking. Earlier Assured earned a crack at the Chester Cup by winning the Queen's Prize in the style of an improved stayer. He was beaten by Dural, who finished third behind Air Lib and Night. Before at Newbury last September and second to such much vaunted filly, Bessie Wallis, in the



Leading the Easter parade: Air Trooper strides home.

Gerard's half-brother, St. Petersburg, who finished second in both his races as a two-year-old. Whether he does so will probably depend on whether he can beat Dural, who finished third behind Air Lib and Night. Before at Newbury last September and second to such much vaunted filly, Bessie Wallis, in the

Cheltenham

rerun at

Fairhouse

The controversial 1977 Cheltenham Gold Cup will be rerun at Fairhouse this afternoon in the Cheltenham Gold Cup Rerun. Line-up includes Davy, Tied Cottage and Bannow Rambler, who were brought down by a fall.

At eight years of age, Bannow Rambler may still have his best days ahead of him. He was runner-up in the 1976 Gold Cup, but was brought down by a fall in the final furlong.

Davy, who was runner-up in the 1976 Gold Cup, was also brought down by a fall in the final furlong.

Tied Cottage, who was runner-up in the 1976 Gold Cup, was also brought down by a fall in the final furlong.

Bannow Rambler, who was runner-up in the 1976 Gold Cup, was also brought down by a fall in the final furlong.

The Cheltenham Gold Cup Rerun will be held at Fairhouse this afternoon.

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The

Hide and Easterby to strike again

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Carlisle

	2.15	WARNELL	FE
		HURDLE (4-y-o novices)	
		E340: 2m 330yds	
100	Bonsou	11-0	Mr Bowker
200	Birdsong	11-0	Seay
300	Blondy	11-0	Moon
400	Cool Lyrer	11-0	Mor...
500	Delcor	11-0	...
600	Kins Elder	11-0	Mr Garo
700	MacLachlan	11-0	G...
800	Nat of Steel	11-0	D...
900	March Memory	11-0	McDon...
1000	Malanna	11-0	Hain...
1100	Mike	11-0	...
1200	Mike	11-0	...

000	Patience Knight, 11-0	Mr. ...
000	Penny Knight, 11-0	Mr. ...
002	Rey Temper, 7-10	Fourth ...
000	Sea Harding, 11-0	Mr. ...
000	Sweet Georgia, 11-0	Mr. ...
000	Twida, 11-0	Mr. ...
9-4	Royal Temper, 7-2	Niclar ...
Best	Brig, 6-1	Scapier, 8-3
Steel	10-1 Sea Harding, 12-1	ch ...
2.45 SOUTHWAITE STEEP			
CHASE (Handicap)			
5648.60 : 2m			
11-1	Banow Bay, 8-11-5	Th ...

[illegible]

		E340 : 2m 330yds)	
000	Autuma Magic, 5-12-0	Mr Nelson	
000	Billy Chob, 5-13-0	Mr Euba	
000	Barder Usai, 6-12-0	---	
000	DroJenna, 6-12-0	Mr Wal	
000	Johnsio, 6-12-0	Mr Dun	
000	Joel T, 6-12-0	Mr Gar	
000	Korvua Minua, 5-12-0	---	
000	Never A Buck, 5-12-0	---	
000	Our Prince, 5-12-0	Mr Craes	
000	Princess Sura, 5-12-0	---	
000	Pharaoh, 5-12-0	---	
000	Pousser, 5-12-0	Mr Wal	
000	Plaque, 6-12-0	Mr Macins	
000	Beil Colleen, 4-11-7	Mr Payer	
000	Flight Lass, 4-11-7	Mr Shelton	

004 Forry Chubb, 4-11-7
004a Franky Vee, 4-11-7
004b Howley Hill, 4-11-7
004c Gray, 4-11-7
004d Roxie's Double, 4-11-7
11-1 Thruster, 7-3
Never A Buck, 11-3
7-1 Forced March, 12-1
16-1 others.

3.50 **DURDAR** **HURDI**
(Handicap) £608: 3
100-rds)

051 Calbeck, 7-10-3 Goulding
050 Lord Bani, 6-11-3 Mr. Tait
010 Enryco Mico, 5-11-4
130 Napazi, 7-10-9 J. J. O'Neil
021 Shurello, 8-10-0 La
000 Reiko'ma, 6-10-0 Colburn
001 Cool Sabriel, 6-10-0
000 Sleek Sarc, 5-10-0 W. Craig
000 San Palestinn, 3-10-0
Miss B. Oliver
7-4 Calbeck, 3-1 Enryco Mico, 9
Cool G'bril, 6-1 Napazi, 10-1 La
Bras, 12-1 others.

4.25 JOHN MCKIE STEEPL

CHASE (Maiden) hu
ters: £340 (3m)

3-bp **Bally Jewel**, 8-12-7

50 **Blue Nip**, 12-12-7 Mr Faukner
Mr Canlab's Lad, 8-12-7 Mr Craggs

b-0 **Chromolaure**, 8-12-7 Mr Mac'INN
-02p **D'Dyke**, 7-12-7 Mr Walker

203 **Mess Well**, 8-12-7 Mr Brown
3 **Royal Albi**, 10-12-7 Mr Wallis

020- **Aberdeen** 5-12-3
Eunette 7-12-3
Mucklerry 11-12-3

6-4 **Blue Nip** 5-2 Royal Albi, 7
Mess Well, 8-1 D'Dyke, 10-1 Aberdeen

4.55 **MOORHOUSE STEEPLE**
CHASE (Novices: £478
3m)

31p	Spartan Sandal, 6-11-9	Mr Fub...
014	Why Go 7-11-9	Mr Fub...
00	Bewanger, 8-11-9	J. O'Ne...
07b	Fish Farmer, 6-11-2	Turnbal...
444	Game Baiscler, 8-11-2	Perciv...
133	Hndret, 8-11-2	Gr...
1035	Kilgore, 9-11-2	Lang...
2-00	Lets See, 8-11-3	...
7p3	Park Island 9-11-2	Enn...

600 Patrick Maich, 11-11-13
 120-0 Aileen Cain, 7-11-2 Faulmer
 100 Spence, 9-11-2 Maanor
 242 Three To One, 6-11-2 .. Thirle
 11-4 Three To One, 100-30, Kink
 Rose, 5-1 Game Batchelor, 6-1 Spartz
 Sandra, 8-1 Hedret, 10-1 Why Gary
 14-1 Park Island, 20-1 others.

CARLISLE SELECTIONS: 2.15 Beas
 Briggs, 2.45 Bannow Bay, 3.20 Potshon
 Sle-M, 3.50 Calobeth, 4.25 Bine Nip
 4.55 King Ross.

4 20 AILEY EATHERSTON

HAUGH STEEPLECHASE
(Handicap: £853: 2/1 5f)

353 Dancing Ned, 9-10-10 J. Thorne
124 Drumwink, 10-6 K. Kin
501 Neon, 10-10 J. Glover
528 S. 10-6
104 Goldfing, 6-10-0 R. Nian
005 Commarke, 7-10-0 O'Halloran
6-4 Neon, 5-1 Dancing Ned, 4-
Drumwink, 3-5 Goldfing, 10-1
sell, 13-1 Commarke.

4.55 DUNCOTE HURDLE
(Div II: Part I)

40-2	Boxing Match	6-11-11	-
40-3	Charivar	7-11-11	-
0	Golden Bell	6-11-11	-
OpD	Gentle Rose	6-11-11	-
040	Golden Bob	8-11-11	Mr Weston
	Hill	6-11-11	Price
	Kitty Balls	6-11-11	Kinson
00	Miramor	9-11-11	Mooney
23	Pavement Artist	8-11-11	
FOR	Quinton House	10-11-11	Sh-Ecct
000	Saint Daniel	6-11-11	Mr Harper
0	Southpaw	7-11-11	Thorn
	Bay Bell	4-11-0	Mr U. Brown
0	Golden Lava	4-11-0	Mr J. Brown
			Leach

36-1	Pavement	APUSt.	5-11	Boxing
36-2	High	Point	5-11	Kitty Belle
12-1	Salut	Daniel,	Chariwat,	20-
others.				

5.25	DUNCOTE	HURDLE
	(Div I: Part II)	

404	Admiral Blonde.	7-11-11	---
000	Border Merchant.	8-11-11	---
	Brooklaw.	5-11-11	.. Stephens
240	El Padro.	8-11-11	---
0	Hals Gold.	8-11-11	---
00	Kandilove.	5-11-11	Mr Lacer
00	Mocnello.	5-11-11	---
200	Railway City.	8-11-11	.. Thorne
	Retalious.	5-11-11	---
00	WHEAT	5-11-11	Glover

000 Lawrence Johnstone, 3-21-00 Leach
30 Staccato, 4-11-00 B. R. Davier
9-4 Staccato, 11-4 Brooklyn, 9-2
Admiral Bnda, 6-1 El Padre, 8-2
Railway City.

5.55 DUNCOTE HURDLE
(Div II: Part II)

000 Bear Best, 7-11-11 Mr Chugg 3
000 Emma, 5-11-11 " " " " " "
054 Isotip, 5-11-11 " " " " " "
203 Jani Reeves, 5-11-11 " " " " " "
450 Maria Andrew, 5-11-11 " " " " " "
580 Cwda Aloner, 5-11-11 " " " " " "
00p Poste Royale, 7-11-11 " " " " " "

000 Rue d'Or. 6-11-11 H. M. Davies
000 Swash Buckler. 6-11-11 Thorner
000 Tupper Mystery. 7-11-11
000 Ascot Blue. 4-11-0
040 Firs Park. 4-11-0

080 Marcedem. 4-11-0 Coogan
Trendy Lord. 4-11-0
7-4 Just Revenge. 5-2 Firs Park
4-1 Isolip. 11-2 Owen Money. 8-1
Martyn Andrew. 20-1 others.
" Doubtful runner

TOWCESTER SELECTIONS: 2.0
Tessie's Boy. 2-33 Old Man Dimble.
3.10 Marchant Prince. 4-45 Rife

